7116
1027. b. 16
5

THE FARMERS ADDRESS TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

Humbly recommended

To the careful Perusal of every CORN FARMER, and every HONEST MAN in *Great Britain*.

To which are added,

SOME SINGLE PIECES,

Lately Published in the LONDON CHRONICLE,

At different Times; by which this Address will be greatly illustrated.

Who hath Ears to hear, let him hear.

LONDON.

Printed for J. WILLIAMS, No. 38. next the Mitre Tavern, Fleet-Street.

M DCC LXVIII.

TO THE

CORN FARMERS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

AS the publication of this little Treatiſe was completed at the requeſt of a reſpectable body of yeomen, whoſe property is almoſt intirely veſted in corn; it may not be improper to acquaint you, that, immediately after paſſing the act herein ſpoken of, which ſo greatly affects their property, notice was publickly given in the news-paper, that in a very ſhort time the price of corn would be reduced to 4 s. per buſhel: which was in ſo many words proclaiming to the nation, that every farmer in England would very ſoon find three parts in ſeven of his property clandeſtinely taken away, and carried into foreign countries. One would have thought that a ſet of men who grudge no expence to get rid of the incumbrance of one pauper, by a legal conteſt with

their neighbours, might have ſhewn ſome ſpirit and reſolution when their All was at ſtake; but whether from a neglect to read what is publiſhed with deſign to promote their advantage, or from want of due attention to its conſequences; the farmers, it ſeems, (like the duke of Wharton's puppies, which could never be brought to open their eyes till they were caſt into the water and drowning) whoſe property is ſo ſeverely attacked, may not be prevailed on to examine the merits of this addreſs, until the merchants have been round the world in queſt of a merchandize advantageous to themſelves, but which will prove a mill-ſtone to the corn-farmer, who muſt pay for the chain which will bind him in ſlavery.

When we conſider the many excellent treatiſes publiſhed on the corn trade, we think it ſtrange that gentlemen who take ſo much pains at ſuch an amazing expence to procure ſeats in parliament, ſhould not think it a duty on every one of them to read their contents, in order to form ſome judgment of their reſpective merits; fix their attention to the ſuperior advantages ariſing from agriculture; diligently attend to the horrid diſadvantages neceſſarily conſequent on every impediment thrown in the way of that lucrative merchandize; the inſtantaneous uncertainty of their own revenues by the furtive loſs of property to all their tenants, and the poſſible famine which may be brought on, like a torrent by thoſe men by whom the markets muſt be ſupplied, who by withdrawing from all markets for one month, or one week, would certainly bring on the ſame calamity as that which

which a ſimilar act indiſcreetly paſſed was productive of in the reign of Edward I. as is related in the courſe of theſe papers.—The three Eſſays on the Corn Trade, and the two firſt of thoſe letters written by a worthy gentleman of our own body, are of the number of thoſe performances which ought to be recorded in letters of gold; ſo that he, who has not carefully and diligently examined into the matter contained in them, is both incapable of judging, and unworthy to decide on that great and important queſtion.

It is not for me to dictate; but I ſeriouſly recommend it to all voters in all counties in England carefully to examine into the abilities as well as integrity of thoſe gentlemen, who, by becoming our repreſentatives, may ſport with, and laviſh our ſubſtance in ſome future parliament; for as he who runs may read the fatal tendency of this act, I cannot only ſollicit your ſpeedy aſſiſtance to procure a repeal of it, but to put ſome check to any future attempt of the like aſpect, though theſe Common Councilmen, who have ſo zealouſly accompliſhed their own private views, which was to increaſe the value of their own property at the expence of yours, with the additional advantage of popularity for a particular purpoſe, would probably be the firſt ſet of men who would feel the effect of the inconvenience above alluded to; as the mob (who ſeldom think of the rod till they feel the ſmart) finding themſelves duped, and judging for themſelves, would be ſure to ſacrifice them to their reſentment and fury. He who can procure immediate relief to the poor by means

the moſt ſure, and affecting the properties of all his majeſty's ſubject in due proportions, would be deſerving of every return of benevolence and gratitude from his countrymen; but how the plunder of the Corn Farmer is to reduce the price of all other ſorts of proviſion, and of every thing beſides with which corn has no ſort of connection, is a myſtery with which I am intirely unacquainted. "Man cannot live by bread alone." Was all the corn in England equally and univerſally diſtributed, it would anſwer no purpoſe ſo certain, as that of increaſing the poors rates, as may be eaſily demonſtrated. I will not, however, ſcruple to aſſert (becauſe I ſee it proved beyond a poſſibility of doubt, by a little treatiſe written expreſsly on the ſubject) that a repeal of the act of Geo. II. relative to the aſſize of bread, and having recourſe to the aſſize table of Queen Anne, would inſtantaneouſly reſtore to the clamorous poor, for the ſame money they now pay to the Baker, one part in eight more bread, more wholeſome, and intrinſically better than that which they are now obliged to purchaſe, or to ſtarve: is it not ſtrange then that this method ſhould not be approved, when the immediate conſequence would be the giving daily bread to every eighth perſon in the kingdom? is it ſurpriſing that the number of bakers ſhould continue daily increaſing in every village in England, when it is inconteſtably proved, that their revenues ariſing from their preſent profits, are greatly more than equal to the rent ariſing from all the corn land in England? and yet this fact is as certain as that two added to twelve is but equal to fourteen.

Reflect

Reflect with attention, Gentlemen, in what ſituation you ſtand with reſpect to your fellow-ſubjects; for ſhould this act continue unrepealed till the next ſeſſions of parliament, it will not only fix on you a tax which will grind you to powder, but will become a ſample to govern the votes of your repreſentatives on all future popular clamours, from what quarter ſoever encouraged and promoted; your fortunes and the happineſs of your families will depend on the breath of a ſet of men, who will never think they have your All till they ſee you in a dungeon; by which your property and your liberty will be as precarious as it is in any arbitrary kingdom in Europe, where the king's edict fixes the value of all property; the conſequence of which is the beggary of individuals, as has been frequently experienced by the neighbouring kingdom of France.

St. Luke tells us in his ſecond chapter, "that it came to paſs in thoſe days, that there went out a decree from Cæſar Auguſtus, that *all the world* ſhould be taxed. And *all* went to be taxed, *every one* in his own city." A very fair, juſt and unexceptionable tax this, and no man could object to it. Do we read any where, that Cæſar Auguſtus ſent out a decree to tax the huſbandman alone, in order to diſtribute his property on *all the reſt of the world?*

You may by this time, perhaps, be deſirous of peruſing their humble addreſs; but I beg leave firſt to tell you the following ſtory, taken from the *Eſſays on the Corn Trade*, page 33. and which was communicated to the author by an eye-witneſs.

In

In Turkey the Grand Vizir, between twenty and thirty years ago, ſuffered a more general exportation of corn to be carried on, and more openly than any of his predeceſſors had done, inſomuch that three hundred French veſſels entered Smyrna Bay on one day to load corn, and wheat was then ſold for leſs than ſeventeen pence Engliſh per buſhel, with all the expences included. From theſe open proceedings the people took the alarm, pretended that *all* the corn was going to be *exported*, and that they in conſequence muſt be *ſtarved*; and in Conſtantinople grew ſo mutinous, that they could not be appeaſed till the Vizir was ſtrangled, and his body thrown out to them. His ſucceſſor took particular care not to ſplit on the ſame rock, and would ſuffer no exportation at all; many of the farmers, *who looked on the Exportation as their greateſt demand, neglected tillage to ſave their rents* to ſuch a degree, that in *leſs than three years* the ſame quantity of corn which in time of export ſold for not quite ſeventeen pence, was worth more than ſix ſhillings, and the diſtreſſes of the people in Smyrna were ſuch, that every bake-houſe and magazine of corn was obliged to have a military guard, ſo that an Engliſh ſhip was detained from ſailing for want of bread. The ill conſequences of theſe proceedings were not removed in many years, and to this day the fate of the Vizir, as an unfortunate good man, is lamented.

Wherefore let the farmers toaſt ever be,
" May the loom ever flouriſh, but not a
" thread hamper the wheels of the plough.
" May the canvaſs be ever ſpread to waft the
" produce

" produce of each to foreign countries. But " vengeance light on him who ſhall ſtruggle to " bring them back again to the prejudice of " either."

That the legal and ſubmiſſive addreſſes of every Corn Farmer in England in the reſpective counties may be ſpeedily and effectually added to this, and enforced with the utmoſt ſpirit and unanimity: that your hills and your vallies may laugh and ſing at the approaching harveſt: that your properties may be ſecured on the ſame plan with your fellow-ſubjects; and that peace and proſperity may attend you, and your country, are the fervent prayers of,

GENTLEMEN,

Your ſincere Friend,

A Landholder.

THE

FARMERS ADDRESS

TO THE

Two worthy Repreſentatives for the County of ——.

GENTLEMEN,

WE the Corn Farmers of the county of—— humbly preſume to preſent ourſelves before you with all due reſpect and affection, in order to repreſent to you what we apprehend to be the preſent ſtate of our great grievances; not doubting but you who are our repreſentatives intruſted with the care of our liberties and our properties, will candidly enter into the merits of them; ſo that if we are ſo happy as to ſatisfy your judgments by reaſon and truth, that we are a moſt oppreſſed and injured body of induſtrious men, ſacrificed to the cunning and intereſt of a few of our fellow-ſubjects; loaded with a tax inconſiſtent with the nature of a trading nation, and *totally* deſtructive to all property

property in one body of men *only*; we ſhall confide in your zeal for the ſervice of your country in general, as well as your ſteady purſuit of juſtice and candor, to demonſtrate the weight of them to that aſſembly, which alone can redreſs us.

Know, then, Gentlemen, that after due deliberation we have convinced ourſelves, and hope to be able to convince you, that the general liberty lately given to all his majeſty's ſubjects to import corn freely from all countries of the earth may prove extremely prejudicial to the intereſt and property of every Corn Farmer in England, as well as to the people and nation in general. Our conſtitution delights in equality; but a ſecret diminution of the Corn Farmers property alone may, in the event, prove too heavy a burthen for their ſhoulders to bear; for the reſt of the ſubjects are ſo far from contributing to it, that it is calculated for their benefit; ſo that the richer they are, and the more mouths they have to feed, the heavier it will fall on the Corn Farmers property. Laſtly, neceſſity ſeems not greatly concerned in the inducement to it; the price of corn at Bear Key being at this inſtant, as we have great reaſon to believe, even *at*, or even below that mark, which was fixed as a reaſonable one by the encouraging ſtatute of the late King William; on the faith of which we have riſqued our labour, our fortunes, and our families: ſo that, to add ſorrow to ſorrow, we are inclined to think, that as God Almighty has by his power deprived us of much more than half of thoſe bleſſings he uſed moſt graciouſly to confer

upon us; the remaining parts may be equally divided between the rich and the poor of the whole kingdom; by which means that puniſhment which might be deſigned by Providence as a national warning, may prove a rod for the back of the Corn Farmer alone, who is the only man in the kingdom who has carefully and expenſively endeavoured to make a proviſion againſt it.

In order, however, to obviate any inſinuations to the prejudice of us, or our fellow-labourers, we take the liberty to aſſure you, that as a collective body of men, we will, with the greateſt chearfulneſs, conſent to, and pay, any tax impoſed on our property for the advantage of the real poor of this kingdom; provided ſuch tax be equally impoſed on every other of his majeſty's ſubjects; then to convince you of the extreme hardſhips to which we may be reduced by the power of this act, we declare it to be as clear as figures can make it, that every buſhel of corn brought into this kingdom muſt neceſſarily be paid for by the Corn Farmer *alone* out of his perſonal property: ſo that although the merchant is the perſon who takes the lead, he is alſo the only perſon in this kingdom who as a trader is to lay up for himſelf a fortune, by bringing from foreign manufacturers that produce, which gives encouragement to agriculture in that country from whence it is brought, and encreaſes the value of the ſtock of every Farmer therein: but, alas! the loſs of our property will be in the exact proportion to what is added to theirs, who by no law can be compelled to contribute one farthing

farthing to the ſupport of this government, or maintenance of the poor of this kingdom. Thus, Gentlemen, ſhould a glut of corn be introduced to our markets, we may be ſo unhappy as to ſee our property reduced in value one half, or more; every farthing of which money will inſtantly ſlide into the pocket of the foreign cultivator, or merchant, who may gain more of our ſubſtance by the trade of three or four months, than we ſhall be able to recover with our utmoſt frugality and induſtry during the remainder of our lives; the conſequence of which muſt be, an inability to diſcharge thoſe rents and demands which by the laws of the land, and in common juſtice, we are bound to pay. This, Gentlemen, is the more melancholy, as we ſee no limitation to this tax, which may affect our properties from one, to twenty ſhillings in the pound, reducing us to ſlavery and a jail in the morning, who go to bed freemen, and men of ſubſtance. If there remains with you, Gentlemen, any doubt of the truth of this poſition; let us intreat you to try the experiment on any other branch of commerce; when we do not doubt but you will effectually feel the force of it. Suppoſe for one moment that the legiſlature again lamenting the diſtreſſes of the poor, ſhould reſolve to enable every man to purchaſe a ſuit of cloth garments at the price the cloth would neceſſarily be ſold for was no foreign trade allowed; or to ſtrengthen the compariſon, ſhould paſs a law to prohibit all exportation, and encourage merchants to bring into England the manufacture of foreign countries, in order to

decreaſe the value of the ſtock in the home manufacturer's hands; would not the clothier either inſtantly give over his trade; petition for redreſs; or ſend his workmen with drums, or with crape to diſplay his ruin at St. Stephen's Chapel? Would not the Common Council of London who have brought this calamity upon us have done the like on an equal invaſion of their property? Could ſuch an act continue in force one week? Certainly, no. How then does our caſe differ? No otherwiſe than by being ten times more melancholy; for we do venture to pronounce, and undertake to prove, that theſe three laſt unfavourable ſeaſons have been fatal to many; prejudicial to numbers; and diſadvantageous to every man, the produce of whoſe farm is corn only. We are well appriſed that the clamor of the great and little mob in many corporate towns is againſt the body of Farmers, as the men to whom the diſtreſſes of the poor are chiefly to be attributed; as if the inclemency of three ſucceſſive ſeaſons, and the general riſe of every other ſort of proviſion, in which they have no concern, was owing either to their wickedneſs; their contrivance; or their influence: but we truſt that we are now making application to Gentlemen, who will give us due credit, when we declare, that the produce of many, many farms in barley for the year 1765; and in wheat univerſally for the two ſucceeding years, proved ſo remarkably ſmall, as by no means to return our rents and expences, even at the preſent price; ſo that every buſhel of corn imported will but add

to

to our loſſes, by paying to merchants and foreigners that money, which as Engliſhmen and manufacturers is neceſſary to our trade, and the ſupport of our families. But *cui bono?* To whoſe advantage is this importation? Can it poſſibly be thought advantageous to the poor man to create a ſcarcity of ſpecie, by which it will become more difficult for him to procure it? Or to decreaſe the quantity of labour, by which alone he can procure it? Can it be to his advantage to ſee the value of that capital diminiſhed, from which alone he has a right to be ſupported? Will it relieve his diſtreſſes to have the deaf ear of the Farmer, and ſee the avenues to compaſſion ſhut againſt him by his legal guardian and benefactor; who not knowing but another unfavourable ſeaſon may reduce him to beggary, by a continued importation, will certainly confine his charity to that place where it always begins? What muſt become of the poor man ſhould the Farmer be obliged to forſake him? This was the caſe, from this very cauſe, laſt winter, as every magiſtrate in the kingdom muſt have experienced; and will prove an increaſing calamity in proportion to the oppreſſion they feel under their own roofs: for we know of no law now ſubſiſting, or can form an idea of a future one, conſiſtent with the great charter, to oblige Farmers to ſtarve themſelves, or labour for no profit. But for whoſe profit is this importation calculated? It will be anſwered, perhaps, for the working manufacturers, and the merchants: Is the Farmer, then, not only to pay his own ſervants, but to ſurrender other parts of his property to

maintain

maintain the ſervants of other manufacturers? Is the maſter of theſe ſervants to parade in his coach, and riot in a mode of extravagance and luxury ſcarce to be credited, and the induſtrious Farmer to jolt in his waggon or tramp on foot to market in order to enable him to pay his ſervants their wages? Or ſhall the merchant oblige his ſervants to work for wages by which they cannot live? Let them follow the example we have ſet them; let them increaſe their wages, and find them conſtant employment: let them take longer time to amaſs their enormous treaſures: be contented with ſmaller gains, and ſuffer the workman, who brings the honey to the hive, occaſionally to taſte the ſweets of it. In the name of God, Gentlemen, what are theſe merchants to whom all agriculture is to be ſacrificed? the ſcripture may afford the trueſt anſwer. "They are like the "lilies of the field; they ſow not, neither do "they ſpin; yet Solomon in all his glory is "not arrayed like one of them. They are "dreſſed in purple and fine linen, and fare "ſumptuouſly every day;" they travel like princes of the blood royal; they have driven the antient gentry of England from their baronies; and noſe the nobility in every rotten borough in the nation.

We have heard it ſaid, and believe it to be true, in a figurative ſenſe, "that kings have "long arms." Happy would it be for their ſubjects was the ſame figure applicable to the ears alſo. Then truth, and truth alone, would dare to approach their royal dignity. A quartern loaf moſt probably will not be equal in

value

value to one ſhilling during the winter, unleſs this diminution of the farmer's property becomes a general cauſe of provocation to it.

We are unwilling, Gentlemen, to trouble you with a repetition of our great grievances, as many reaſons, not neceſſary to be here aſſigned, will ariſe on reflection, by which every candid man will be induced to think them inſupportable; we will therefore only beg leave to conclude with ſaying, that ſo heavy and ſo unlimited an invaſion of property, as is the neceſſary conſequence of ſuch an importation, is contrary to one of the firſt deſigns of man entering into ſociety, which is a reciprocal ſecurity of property; that like the cyder act, which could not be endured, it is partial and deſtructive; like the ſtamp act it may carry away all the ſpecie of the nation; which we apprehend to be the ſinews of war, and our only real riches; that it has not the eſſence of a tax which is equality; and that it may be productive of famine, as was the caſe once before from the ſame kind of management, by uniting a reſpectable body of men, who may reſolutely and courageouſly determine not to part with the poſſeſſion of that property which was procured by our ſweat. The ſtaff of life is in our hands; the law will protect it *there*; and every labouring man in the kingdom, *who is not blind to his own intereſt*, will help us to defend it. The amazing increaſe of workmens bills, ſuch as Blackſmiths, Wheelrights, Collarmakers, and other articles of which the Farmer ſtands in daily need, are ſo heavy upon us, that we cannot conceive by what means we can be

expected

expected to raiſe money to pay all theſe demands, when the Diſtillers, &c. who are our conſtant cuſtomers, and foreigners who are our chance cuſtomers are forcibly taken from us; and Medes, Eremites, and the dwellers in Meſopotamia encouraged to rival us in our own markets, free from the incumbrance of every tax or charge whatſoever; ſo that if we continue under the neceſſity to buy every thing we want at the preſent advanced prices, on account of the dearneſs of that ſort of proviſion, which we are no way concerned in; and obliged to diſpoſe of the only proviſion we have to ſell, at the price ſet by foreign markets, we cannot but conclude, that every inconvenience ariſing to the nation from the dearneſs of *every ſort* of proviſion will fall on the Corn Farmers alone, who are to maintain the merchant; the manufacturer; the labourer and the ſailor out of their property, though they are deprived of every *promiſed* advantage ariſing from their trade to enable them to do ſo; and though the riſe on corn, notwithſtanding the ſeaſons, is by much the leaſt of any, both in proportion and conſumption; for it is well known that ſeven buſhels of wheat are as many as are conſumed by one man (one with the other) amongſt any ſet of men in the nation; which at an advance of two ſhillings per buſhel, comes but to fourteen ſhillings, which is ſcarce the fourth part of what every Farmer in the kingdom has generouſly advanced to his labourers in conſideration of it.

We recommend to you the mercy and protection of the great God who made you, and our cauſe, by your aſſiſtance, to the conſideration of the parliament and our country; with the aſſurance that we are ſtrongly inclined to continue,

GENTLEMEN,

Your ſincere Friends,

And Obedient Servants,

Voters for the County of——.

N. B. This plan may ſerve for all the counties in England, unleſs the Gentlemen chuſe to add more forcible reaſons, which may poſſibly occur to them.

TO THE

LANDHOLDERS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

GENTLEMEN,

AS the act of parliament to which the Farmers preſume to impute their misfortunes was carried through the houſes with too much expedition to admit of any remonſtrances againſt it; and as his majeſty was pleaſed to declare, "that if credit might be given to the "London Bakers, the price of a quartern loaf "will riſe this winter to one ſhilling," which prediction, though a deception of the kingdom, does not ſeem likely to come to paſs; yet I may reaſonably infer from it, that abſolute neceſſity was the only aſſignable reaſon to induce the candid gentlemen to bring on themſelves and their tenants ſo great a burden; for whatſoever may

may be their preſent ideas of this tax, the time is probably not far diſtant, when you will yourſelves experience the weight of it. If a tenant rents 500*l. per annum*, and has upon his eſtate a property equal to 1000*l.* the landlords rent is doubly ſecured; but ſhould the merchant by his navigation reduce the value of that property to 500*l.* his ſecurity will be by no means in the exact proportion to that diminution; for ſhould the Farmer fail by this reduction, the ſtock will not indemnify the landlord; as law, private intereſt, and family feelings will certainly ſecrete good part of it. Should it ſo happen that the Farmer, by the landlord's indulgence, continues his poſſeſſion; ſtill the rent muſt be behind on the appointed day, or the tenant obliged to diſpoſe of his property to very great diſadvantage, which will diſcourage his future induſtry, and raiſe diſturbances in his family by dividing their intereſt, each endeavouring to ſecure ſome property againſt a day of trouble; the reſult of which will be, a dungeon for the tenant; inconvenience, to ſay no worſe, to the landlord, and bankruptcy to his tradeſmen.

Turn your minds one moment, Gentlemen, to the cyder act, which paſſed the houſes with as little difficulty as the preſent act, having none of thoſe diſtinguiſhing marks of hardſhip to individuals ſo peculiarly characteriſtic in that now before us. To all outward appearance that act was equitable and candid; cyder being the beverage of thoſe countries for which the tax was calculated, there could be no reaſon aſſigned why they ſhould not contribute their ſhare to the expences of government in proportion to

thoſe whoſe conſtant liquor was beer: but a very ſhort trial ſerved to convince the inhabitants that the tax was intolerable; ſweeping away whole counties to the ruin of one part only of his majeſty's ſubjects; for a tax of 4s. *per* hogſhead on a liquor that at a public auction in the county ſold but for 5s. *per* hogſhead, with the additional tax of one ſhilling in 5s. land-tax, left not one farthing for the tenant either for poors rate, labour, or ſupport of his family. Now as many gentlemen in thoſe counties keep large tracts of apple orchards in hand for the uſe of their families, they ſunk under its weight; but by their direction and influence, added to the ſpirit and reſolution of all others affected by it, ſuch modeſt and legal repreſentations were made of their hardſhips as happily and ſpeedily put a period to them. It may reaſonably be expected, that you, Gentlemen, who certainly perceive at this inſtant, and will ſoon feel the fatal conſequences neceſſarily attendant on the continuance of this act, will ſteadily join your influence to that of your tenants, to procure the repeal of it. There is no time to loſe; no, not one moment; the ſeſſions will be ſhort, and then, by the next meeting, both the houſes of parliament, and the farms may have changed their occupiers; for foreign corn, like all other foreign manufactures, will certainly deſtroy the manufacturers of this country. What clamours have we repeatedly heard againſt taylors, milleners, ſervants and others, who have ſlyly introduced foreign merchandize into this country to the diſadvantage of the manufacturer, by diminiſhing the value

of

of his property, and decreaſing the quantity of labour, which is the ſupport of the poor. Will you then ſilently languiſh, like patience on a monument, ſmiling on an act which gives public encouragement to every man to ſport with the Corn Farmers property by means which are unjuſtifiable and oppreſſive in every other branch of trade. If the certain ruin of your tenants cannot move your compaſſion, let your intereſt rouſe you to action, ever remembering, that the increaſe of wages voluntarily given by the farmers to every labourer they employ, is more than ſufficient to find him in bread when wheat is at 7 s. *per* buſhel, over and above all the other advantages his family may receive from the rates of the pariſh. Does any other manufacturer act with the ſame generoſity? Can this benevolence be continued by the farmers, when every advantage ariſing from a free trade is prohibited to them? Caſt an eye of pity and compaſſion on the real objects of charity in this kingdom; I do not mean thoſe who luxurioufly and riotouſly ſquander away their ſubſtance at alehouſes and ſtews, in the wicked expectation of enjoying the fruits of others labours in a day of need; but the aged, the lame; the blind; the reduced by unavoidable accidents; and the induſtrious parents of a numerous iſſue; many of whom will pay with their lives for this unfortunate act. If any argument in this little treatiſe ſhould prove an inducement to you, Gentlemen, to ſtruggle for the redemption of your eſtates from this thraldom, don't ſuffer yourſelves to be trifled with under any pretence that the merchants have

fitted

fitted out their fleet on the faith of parliament; for the act of King William, under the ſanction of which your tenants have encreaſed *your* properties, and eſtabliſhed *their own*, was well deſerving of an equal reſpect, as it hath been productive of more riches to this kingdom, than I would venture to declare, unleſs, on infallible calculation and ballance, I had ſeen it to amount to the amazing ſum of forty millions of pounds ſterling in leſs than eighty years; beſides many millions for freight, &c. &c. &c. which ſum is proved by *many learned men* to be of equal value with one hundred and twenty millions worth of manufactures exported, if wrought from foreign materials. Should the merchant, therefore be diſappointed of that booty which he expected from the pockets of his countrymen, he will be no loſer, as his commodity may be diſpoſed of to advantage in any neighbouring nation, where it may be much more wanted; but if he is allowed to land it here, adieu agriculture! for whether the next harveſt proves as unfavourable as the three laſt, or fills the renters barns with plenty, he will ſtill remain a loſer in either caſe; as the return of ſhips expected from abroad at that ſeaſon will deprive him of the advantage of price, in the firſt inſtance, and oblige him to diſpoſe of his property at, or even under its coſt, in the ſecond The poor will ſeverely feel the truth of thoſe aſſertions which relate to the baleful influence of the act alluded to, and a repeal may be wanted when it cannot be procured; the Farmer is already providing againſt it, and the diſtreſſes of the poor will hourly increaſe;

an

an additional tax of 4s. in the pound on the Corn Farmers property alone could not be endured; but a tax in effect equal to eight, or perhaps much more, is a total deſtruction to farmers, and their families.

That wings may be added to your imaginations, and ſpurs to your heels, is the wiſh of a ſincere lover of his country; who knows, from daily experience, the fatal conſequence of this haſty meaſure; and who is,

GENTLEMEN,

With the greateſt deference,

Your devoted, and

Obedient ſervant,

The Editor.

To the PRINTER *of the* LONDON CHRONICLE.

SIR,

I FIND by your extenſive paper, that it has been thought adviſeable in a great Council to continue the importation of corn, and to extend the time limited to twenty days after the meeting of parliament. As this meaſure is of the utmoſt importance to the corn trade, it is hoped that no offence will be given, by offering to the examination of the public ſuch reflections as ariſe from the ſubject in the breaſt of one, by his ſtation and ſituation, converſant in theſe matters; wherefore, I take the liberty to crave your aſſiſtance in communicating the following conſiderations to the public view, earneſtly wiſhing, that what I now offer may induce ſome gentlemen of greater knowledge and abilities to examine and ſift the matter to the bottom, as to the propriety of a further continuance of ſuch a reſtriction, that every meaſure ſo deeply intereſting to the public may undergo a candid ſcrutiny, and every member of the community receive an equal benefit from the laws.

I will take it for granted, firſt, that in the eye of the law and the law-makers, every manufacture is equally entitled to the privilege and advantages ariſing from trade and commerce; and that which is law and common ſenſe with reſpect to one branch of commerce, will be deemed

deemed equally valid and concluſive with reſpect to another. Secondly, that huſbandry and its produce is a manufacture in the eye of the law and common ſenſe, and entitled to the ſame privileges and encouragements with them, as its increaſe and value are in proportion to, and the effect of, the labour of mens hands. Thirdly, that more gold or ſpecie is brought into England by the corn manufacture, than by any other manufacture, or perhaps all of them put together.

Theſe propoſitions allowed, it ſeems neceſſarily to follow, that the corn manufacture ought in all reſpects to be put on the ſame footing with all other trades, the laws of which have hitherto been inviolate. Now the laws relating to exportation are part of the laws of the corn manufacture, and the foundation of that ſanction on which the whole of that trade is carried on; the legiſlature obſerving the great advantages ariſing to the nation from this trade, and deſirous of encouraging it to the utmoſt of their power, have paſſed a ſolemn aſſurance, that (to prevent any obſtruction ariſing to the trade, by too great a produce of their labours who engage their fortunes in it) the aid of a bounty ſhould attend their commodity to a foreign market. Confidently relying on this ſolemn and public aſſurance, the manufacturers have exerted their utmoſt abilities, and ventured their laſt farthing, or perhaps more, to anſwer the purpoſe of this glorious and fortunate act of parliament.

The *Farmer*, in his moſt excellent Letters, hath proved to a demonſtration, what amazing

advantage this law has brought to the community, the benefit of which the corn manufacturer now claims, and the council of the nation have thought it neceſſary to deprive him of the advantage of it, for a reaſon ſuperior to all law, (if ſuch reaſon ever really exiſted) I mean neceſſity. Did the judgment of the public depend on no other proofs than newspaper clamor and aſſertions, it might be *adhuc ſub judice*, if ſuch neceſſity ever exiſted; for ſometimes we were informed that a finer harveſt was never known than that of the year 1766; that the ſcarcity was imaginary; that the farmers had combined to keep up the price; that ſome refuſed to threſh their corn; ſome refuſed to ſell it; and others hoarded up not only their own ſtock, but even added that of their poorer neighbours. On the contrary, others aſſured us, that there muſt neceſſarily be a famine; that there was not corn enough to ſerve half the year. I remember one in particular who aſſured us, that if the farmers went on thus loading the markets, and threſhing ſo faſt, there could be no corn left in a fortnight; ſo that we muſt all ſtarve at once. Both ſides of this aſſertion could not be true, credit to either went no further than the bills of mortality, or perhaps ſome viſionary and gloomy individual in corporate towns. The event, however has clearly demonſtrated, that ſuch neceſſity did never exiſt; for it may be confidently aſſerted, that although ſo many ſhips have already been brought in loaded with this manufacture of foreign countries, to the great diſadvantage of all, and ruin of many manufacturers

facturers of the mother country, yet there is now on hand more corn of that year's produce, though the harveſt has been ſo uncommonly late, than is equal in quantity to every buſhel brought in by this extraordinary meaſure, every grain of which had been at market, if no ſuch meaſure had been taken. I would not be underſtood to mean, that the ſtop put to the export was not a neceſſary meaſure; but the event, I apprehend, proves to a demonſtration, that neceſſity had little to do in the import, ſo that *ceſſante ratione ceſſat & ipſa lex.*

Now the violation of this law, by the ſpirit of which the whole corn trade is conducted, is doubtleſs a great reſtraint and encroachment on the rights and properties of thoſe manufacturers, by lowering the intrinſic value of their whole produce one-fourth at the leaſt, and is ſuch a damp and diſcouragement to the trade in general, as I am confident will be felt for many years to come. For once, however, let us admit, that ſuch neceſſity did really exiſt after the harveſt of 1766, conſequently that the order for importation was reaſonable and proper. The farmers had ſaid nothing in oppoſition to the meaſure, and like ſober and worthy members of ſociety, have ſubmitted to this and many other inconveniences conſequent thereon, (not to ſay a word of the barbarous treatment they met with from a mob of debauched drunkards, for which they have received no national ſatisfaction) in full hopes and confidence that the end of the year would put an end to the neceſſity, and reſtore them

to the rights and privileges of Engliſhmen and manufacturers: but, alas! a freſh reſtraint and embargo are laid on their trade, and they are now to be ſtript of another part of the intrinſic value of their property, and foreigners admitted to partake of the advantage of their trade, contrary to a maxim both of law and equity; that, *qui ſentit commodum, ſentire debet onus*; for no *onus* ariſing from unfavourable ſeaſons will affect any but the home manufacturer, who can by no means find wherewith to pay the poor's tax in the winter, if foreigners are admitted to leſſen the value, and ſhare the profit of his labours, who pay no taxes at all.

Neceſſity will ſcarcely be admitted as a reaſon for ſuch conduct. I do not believe there is a creditable man in the three kingdoms, who will now ſtand forth and aſſert, that there is the leaſt reaſon to inſinuate ſuch neceſſity at preſent; univerſal intelligence and experience is to the contrary; the wheat is large and beautiful; barley in the greateſt profuſion; beans, oats, and peaſe, equal to the warmeſt wiſh: what motive can then be aſſigned why the manufacturer ſhould not be reſtored to thoſe rights to which he was born, and on which he has ventured his whole fortune, as well as the proſperity and ſupport of his family?

Is it the opinion of the nation, or of any council, that however unfavourable the ſeaſons may prove, and whatever crop the ground may produce, corn is always to bear a certain, or near a certain price, let the value of money be what it may? That a farmer ſhall, for years together,

together, be under a neceſſity to diſpoſe of his property at, or even under, the price it coſt him to manufacture it, without the chance of benefiting himſelf and family, when the times and ſeaſons give him an opportunity for ſo doing; and to receive no return proportioned to the failure of his crop, or the increaſe of his expences? If yes; let it be ſo; but ſtill give him the benefit of an Engliſhman, let him have the ſame chance with other manufacturers; if reſtraints are laid on his trade, lay equal reſtraints on other trades; cloathing is as neceſſary as food; luxury and habit have made many things as neceſſary to his family as even raiment: Lay your embargo therefore on cloth, ſilks, ſhoes, ſtockings, &c. &c. they will certainly become cheap, for a time at leaſt, by that means, by which the farmer will reap ſome advantage to balance his loſs, and *ubi eadem ratio, ibi idem jus.*

One inconvenience ſtill the farmer muſt ſtruggle with, the weight of which will prove too heavy for many of them. In all trades, except that of a farmer, a man may inſtantly change his employ, if he finds it not to anſwer his views and expectations; ſo that, ſaving his fortune entire, he may fix in another way of life more ſuitable to his capacity, and advantageous to his family: but a farmer is bound by a long leaſe, perhaps for his life; ſo that, maugre all ſeaſons, his rent muſt be paid, or his perſon immured, and his family ruined.— Was importation and reſtraint brought on any other manufacture, the workmen, like the weavers, would diſplay their banners, and knock

knock at St. James's gate: the farmer's workmen would do the ſame, but that they know the farmer muſt, at all events, maintain him in a manner equal, or nearly equal, to what he would receive from his labouring wages; whereas the clothier, whoſe wages are double, or perhaps treble, to the corn labourer's, would receive no more than is ſufficient to maintain him in the ſtate of a corn labourer, by which he would be deprived of the opportunity to riot in drunkenneſs and debauchery, the ſure and only end of all their labours, to which farmers' labourers are in general entire ſtrangers.

The Famer's moſt excellent Letters have ſet all this matter in a clear and ſatisfactory light: ſincerely it is to be wiſhed, that every gentleman and farmer in England would give them a thorough reading; the ſecond letter would certainly alarm every true Briton who ſincerely loves his country; it is equally to be hoped and expected, that no member of any council will give his voice for ſuch meaſures without again and again weighing with the moſt candid deliberation, thoſe important and concluſive arguments ſo forcibly and judiciouſly handled in that valuable work. Fearful of drawing this letter to a length inconſiſtent with the deſign of your paper, I ſhall only add a few obſervations, which others may either refute or ſupport, as their genius or conviction may induce them.

A farmer is ſeldom if ever poſſeſſed of more property than is ſufficient to houſe his firſt crop, no rent being ever expected till a return is made by a ſale thereof.

A farmer,

A farmer, conſidered as a manufacturer, muſt be affected in his property in proportion to the obſtructions caſt on his free trade.

A farmer is prohibited by law from ſelling his corn in the ſheaf, conſequently if immediately after harveſt his ſtock is intrinſically worth 300*l.* but by importation the intrinſic value be reduced to 200*l.* he is effectually plundered of one third part of his fortune, and the landlord in proportion of his ſecurity for his rent.

A farmer is not benefited by the high price of corn but in proportion to the goodneſs of his crop; ſo that, his crop failing, he muſt make up the deficiency by the price, otherwiſe he muſt of neceſſity fail, and the landlord with him.

If in unfavourable ſeaſons importation be allowed, the whole loſs of crop will fall on the farmer; if no importation ſuffered, then every man will contribute to his loſs in proportion to his conſumption; if a ſum ſo reaſonable, and yet ſo inconſiderable, ſhould prove too much for any individual, the law lays the whole burden on the farmer, as he muſt maintain the poor.

In the year 1765 farmers in general loſt their barley crop; ſo that for want of labour in winter they were obliged to increaſe their rates, and maintain their poor from their capital.—In 1766 they loſt full half their wheat crop, and importation carried away full a fourth part of the intrinſic value of the remaining half, fixing ſuch valuation to the time of harveſt.

On the ſcarcity of the year 1766 many farmers were plundered by the mob, all paid double the uſual price for ſeed, a fourth more for manure, a third more for threſhing wheat, a ſixth more on all labourers wages, the poor-rates were more than doubled, and importation leſſened the value of their capital, making no allowance for this extraordinary expence, or the maintenance of their families.

If an importation of one year ſhould equal the export of any one year ſince the bounty, it will not increaſe the quantity to one buſhel on an acre on the wheat land, as has been proved by the Farmer's Letters, though it will drain the nation of a million and half of money never to be ſeen again.

The importation of laſt year was a great diſadvantage to the farmer, without any benefit to a man in the kingdom, except the merchant, the miller, and the baker; the corn imported being in general ſo bad that the gentry would not eat it; the mechanics could not eat it for health's ſake; the labourer could neither buy it nor eat it, but gave a preference to barley, rye, oatmeal, and rice; unleſs when in debt to the miller, who obliged him both to eat and to pay according to his own conſcience.

Importation leſſened the value of the farmer's capital, but did not bring to market one buſhel of corn more than would be brought without it: neither will it ever do ſo; becauſe all the corn grown in England would have been at market on account of the price; but one farmer in twenty, being a man of ſubſtance, will not be forced to bring any corn to market,

but

but will keep it on ſpeculation, in hopes that time and experience will open the eyes of our rulers.

Corn is not at this inſtant by 2s. 6d. per buſhel ſo dear as it has been within theſe few years when exportation was allowed; when every tradeſman in England knows that tenants paid their landlords, landlords their tradeſmen, and tradeſmen their correſpondents, better than ever they will do again, till our governors have more time from party diſputes to make themſelves maſters of the ſubject.

If foreign manufacturers of corn are allowed to carry off a million and half from the farmer's capital, when the farmer can ſupply the home conſumption, and bring a million and half from foreign trade, the difference to the farmer and the nation is three millions; which I preſume to be more money loſt to the nation than would be the conſequence of twenty millions raiſed on the public for the purpoſe of a truly national war.

Though wheat varied in price at market eighteen pence per buſhel in the year 1767, yet the miller made but four pence difference in his flour throughout the year.

Importation lowers the price of corn two ways; one by diſtreſſing the neceſſitous farmer; the other by raiſing the value of money by creating a ſcarcity: one is a cruelty to particulars; the other an inconvenience to the public.

Farmers maintain the poor of every manufacture; but manufacturers contribute very little to the poor of their own manufactures;

becauſe manufacturers have little landed property, and their poor are local; whereas farmers occupy all the land, and their poor are univerſal.

If the poor had their juſt rights in weights and meaſures, &c. from the bakers, millers, and others *, they would have no occaſion to complain, or would complain at the price paid to the farmers, becauſe they know the price ariſes from ſcarcity, to which they think they ought to contribute their part; but the rioters were not paupers who rebelled for bread, but profligate drunkards, who plundered for drink and wantonneſs.

It is extremely dangerous, and generally fatal, to trading communities, to obſtruct or divert the channels of commerce.

Wherefore, farmers, look well to your property, and your rights. Engliſhmen, if you loſe your corn trade you will be undone as a nation. May that God who has ſent you a plentiful harveſt open your eyes.

I am, Sir,

Sept. 18. 1767. Your obedient ſervant, &c.

* This morning the Inqueſt for the city and liberties of Weſtminſter made a private viſitation not much to the credit of certain retailers, whoſe weights and meaſures were broke to pieces on the occaſion. *London Chronicle.*

In anſwer to which Letter the following Paper was inſerted in the *London Chronicle*, to which an anſwer was given as *infra*.

To the PRINTER *of the* LONDON CHRONICLE.

SIR,

ON reading your correſpondent's letter of the 18th inſtant, p. 292. where in the firſt paragraph he hopes that every meaſure ſo deeply intereſting to the public, as the reſtriction on the exportation of corn, may undergo a candid ſcrutiny, I could not help wiſhing that to induce the Public to lend their kind aſſiſtance in this work, and to open their eyes a little, he would give a candid anſwer to the three following queſtions, which I beg leave to propoſe in your paper.

Firſt, Is there any manufacture in the kingdom which the Legiſlature ſhould ſo much encourage as the old trade of baſket-making, or getting of children?

Second, Is any thing ſo likely to promote this glorious trade, as the providing for them eaſily when they are made?

Third, Can any more reaſonable, or effectual means be uſed, than is now taken, to prevent the great decay, or entire loſs of this moſt noble manufacture, ſo eſſential to the very being of the nation?

I am, Sir,

Your humble ſervant,

To the PRINTER *of the* LONDON CHRONICLE.

SIR,

THE three Queries in the laconic letter of your waggiſh Correſpondent, Sept. 29. p. 308. may be anſwered thus. Firſt, no: Second, no: Third, yes:—A free exportation will encourage agriculture, which requires labour, which promotes matrimony, which encreaſes the community. The very reverſe will be the conſequence of importation, which will plunder the manufacturer, who will diſcharge the labourer; marriage will be impracticable; fornication countenanced, attended by that chain of miſchiefs, diſeaſe, murder, and the gallows. 'Tis conſtant and certain employment alone that can enable the workmen of all ſorts to provide eaſily for their children: the price of a loaf is of little conſequence to the man who can by no means procure money to buy it. He muſt of neceſſity either ſtarve, or be maintained by the farmer. Where there is conſtant work, the wages muſt of neceſſity be in proportion to the price of proviſions, which muſt be paid by the conſumer or the pariſh.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

P. S. If five ſhips laden with corn arrived in the river the 22d of September, as you affirm

firm in your paper, how happens it that flour was ſo ſcarce and wheat roſe ſo much in Mark-lane the very next week? Anſwer; Importation. My life upon it, the deficiency will encreaſe till a ſtop is put to it; for the farmers feel the ſmart; know from whence the blow comes; talk of it at market as the greateſt hardſhip imaginable upon them; and will certainly act on ſpeculation. Change the meaſures, and allow an export, then in a month ſhall you ſee your markets well furniſhed and the price fall.

To the PRINTER *of the* LONDON CHRONICLE.

SIR,

A LETTER in the papers ſome time ago had this paſſage: "If a reaſonable profit "were fixed upon every article of life, would it "not have a very good effect? or if an abſo-"lute line were drawn, beyond which neither "buyer or ſeller ſhould paſs, under ſevere pe-"nalties? Would it not be worthy of the high-"eſt praiſe, and the beſt expedient to ſave us "all from ſtarving, if a commiſſion were eſtab-"liſhed, wholly and ſolely to regulate the deal-"ings in the eſſential articles of ſubſiſtence?"

This ſeems very juſt and very neceſſary; and yet I was ſurpriſed to hear a man of quality, and fam'd for parts, ſay upon it, "that it was "impoſſible, in our country, to ſet a price on "things, as they can in France, or any arbi-

"trary

" trary government, by an *Intendant de Police*,
" who ſhall ſay to a grazier, you ſhall have ſo
" much for your ox, &c. and no more, and
" you ſhall ſell it here for the ſupply of this
" city at that price :—Here, ſaid he, you can
" ſay the ſame to him, viz. that he ſhall have no
" more for it—but you cannot force him to ſell
" it at that price, or hinder him from carrying
" it back to the country."

In anſwer to this, I refer him and others, to a little extract in the papers but t'other day, from laws in the time of one of our Kings, 300 years ago, where the prices of all thoſe things were regulated, notwithſtanding (juſt as bread is now in the city by a Lord Mayor) and if thoſe things could be regulated then, I would fain aſk, why they cannot now? Is not our conſtitution the ſame?

Your's, &c.

QUERIST.

To the PRINTER *of the* LONDON CHRONICLE.

SIR,

THERE is an old ſaying, That a fool may aſk more queſtions in one hour than a wiſe man can anſwer in twenty. Permit me to ſupply the place of the firſt, and re-

queſt

queſt Mr. Deputy Dryſkin and his ſubordinate heroes,

Oilmannum, Groceramque, Pakeraque, Gothamiteſque,
VIRG.

to anſwer the following:

1. Whether it is not poſſible, within a certain time after paſſing a law for an unlimited importation, a Farmer, or perhaps thouſands of them, may go to bed freemen, and riſe ſlaves; a glut of corn reducing the value of their property one half, and rendering them liable to a jail? or in other words, if ſuch a law will not as effectually leſſen their property as fire or inundation?

2. Whether any man on earth can really believe that leſſening the intrinſic value of the Farmer's ſtock will add to the ſecurity of the Landlord's rent, or increaſe the value of his eſtate?

3. Whether corn, like other objects of trade, muſt not be governed by the quickneſs of demand, and the ſtock at market?

4. If the ſcarcity is owing to the ſeaſons, how can a farmer pay his rent without a proportionable riſe in the price?

5. Whether the loſs of the money, never to be ſeen again, paid to foreigners for corn, will not be a greater diſadvantage to the poor themſelves, than the preſent price continued, with the money circulating among ourſelves?

6. If cheap and dear are relative terms, and money the medium of commerce, why ſhould 5s. be exchanged for the ſame meaſure of corn, when

when it preſerves its value equally in no other commodity * ?

7. Whether the laws in force do not oblige the careful farmer to maintain the lazy and profligate, as well as the induſtrious poor; and the law propoſed compel him to feed the rich likewiſe, by obliging him to part with his ſtock at a foreign valuation ?

8. Why ſhould the farmer be the only man in England doomed to deſtruction by unfavourable ſeaſons, who, like the ant, ſpends his days in providing againſt them, both for himſelf and the community ?

9. Whether thoſe who conſent thus to plunder the huſbandman will expect his ſmiles at the approaching election ?

10. Whether every law hitherto made to reduce the price of proviſion hath not been

* 1 *Blackeſtone* 276—7. As the quantity of precious metals increaſes, that is, the more of them are extracted from the mine, this univerſal medium or common ſign will ſink in value, and grow leſs precious. Above a thouſand millions of bullion are calculated to have been imported into Europe from America within leſs than three centuries; and the quantity is daily increaſing. The conſequence is, that more money muſt be given now for the ſame commodity than was given an hundred years ago. And if any accident was to diminiſh the quantity of gold and ſilver, their value would proportionably riſe. A horſe that was formerly worth ten pounds, is now perhaps worth twenty: and by any failure of current ſpecie the price may be reduced to what it was. Yet is the horſe in reality neither dearer nor cheaper at one time than another: for if the metal which conſtitutes the coin was twice as ſcarce as at preſent, the commodity was then as dear at half the price, as now it is at the whole.

Miracle! Miracle! Simile quatuor pedibus currit!

found

found by experience to anſwer a contrary purpoſe, and in conſequence thereof ſoon repealed? The fooliſh act mentioned lately by one of your correſpondents in his Q. muſt neceſſarily be of this ſort, or it would need no renewal. In truth hiſtory informs that a famine was the conſequence of that very act which put a ſtop to huſbandry. *Vos non vobis vellera fertis.* To this anſwer your Correſpondent was an intire ſtranger.

11. Whether Mr. Deputy and his Council can be ſuppoſed to be in ſituations equal to this diſpute, or to have ſtudied and underſtood ſuch treatiſes as are now in the higheſt eſteem with the learned, and judges of the ſubject?

12. Would it not be a more immediate and effectual relief to the poor to taſte the duty from coarſe ſoap, coarſe ſalt, ſmall candles, and ſuch neceſſaries of life as they cannot live without, for a limited time; and lay the difference on fine ſoap, fine ſalt, wax and large candles, which would affect only the rich or the willing?

Now as it is impoſſible to encreaſe in luxury, and lower the price of proviſions at the ſame time, the only ſure way to do the latter ſeems to be the following. Reduce unto a ſtate of nature, by caſting all money and paper credit into the ſea, faſten them to the neck of an Attorney by way of weight to keep them from riſing from the bottom; baniſh all common councilmen to America, to raiſe corn againſt the next wet ſeaſon, not forgetting to hang up all ſuch as ſhall endeavour to bring them back again.

In the 17th of Ed. I. wheat ſold in ſome places at 12 pence per quarter, and not many years after at 20 s. per buſhel, which is equal to 4 l. now. (Guthrie.) Is it ſurpriſing then that in the 3d G. III. wheat ſhould ſell for 5 s. the buſhel, and four years after riſe to 7 s. 6 d. (ſcarce the third of Edward's price) in conſequence of two unfavourable ſeaſons which affected all Europe? The public, however, may reſt ſatisfied, that there is not the leaſt danger of a famine or want of corn for all demands, the markets being weekly full ſtocked, and the price conſtantly ſinking, notwithſtanding the alarm given. The wheat for the next crop is now planted, and though at a much greater expence than uſual, yet it comes up perfectly well, and looks as the huſbandman wiſhes: ſo that the farmers having leiſure to attend the markets, will bring it as faſt as mouths will be found to conſume it.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

FINIS.